

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 60th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION COMMITTEE ON STATE ADMINISTRATION

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN CAROLYN SQUIRES**, on March 23, 2007 at 3:00 P.M., in Room 335 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Carolyn Squires, Chairman (D)
Sen. Joe Balyeat (R)
Sen. Vicki Cocchiarella (D)
Sen. Jeff Essmann (R)
Sen. Steven Gallus (D)
Sen. Larry Jent (D)
Sen. Rick Laible (R)
Sen. Jesse Laslovich (D)
Sen. Dave Lewis (R)
Sen. Jim Shockley (R)
Sen. Joseph (Joe) Tropila (D)

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Dave Bohyer, Legislative Branch
Lois O'Connor, Committee Secretary

Audio Committees: These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 544, 3/15/2007; HB 765,
3/15/2007; HB 97, 3/15/2007; HB
679, 3/15/2007; HB 372, 3/15/2007
Executive Action: None.

00:15:28

HEARING ON HB 544

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:16:53 **REP. ALAN OLSON (R), HD 45**, opened the hearing on **HB 544**, Allow withholding membership dues from retirement benefit in HPORS and MPORS.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:18:20 Jim Kembel, Montana Police Protective Association (MPPA)

Opponents' Testimony:

00:18:52 Roxanne Minnehan, Executive Director, Montana Public Employees Retirement Administration (MPERA)

EXHIBIT(sts62a01)

Informational Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:22:29 Sen. Carolyn Squires to Mr. Kembel, MPPA

00:23:59 Sen. Squires to Ms. Minnehan, MPERA

00:25:34 Sen. Squires to Kim Flatow, Montana Public Employees Retirement Administration (MPERA)

00:27:03 Sen. Joe Balyeat to Ms. Minnehan, MPERA

00:29:27 Sen. Rick Laible to Ms. Minnehan, MPERA

00:30:48 Sen. Jim Shockley to Ms. Minnehan, MPERA

00:31:33 Sen. Vicki Cocchiarella to Ms. Minnehan, MPERA

00:32:59 Sen. Cocchiarella to Rep. Olson rereferred to Mark Taylor, Association of Montana Troopers

00:34:54 Sen. Cocchiarella to Mr. Kembel, MPPA

00:35:21 Sen. Balyeat to Rep. Olson

00:36:54 Sen. Laible to Rep. Olson

00:38:57 Sen. Dave Lewis to Ms. Minnehan, MPERA

00:41:29 Sen. Squires to Dal Smilie, Chief Legal Counsel,
Montana Department of Administration (DOA)

00:42:54 Sen. Squires to Ms. Minnehan, MPERA

00:44:05 Sen. Squires to Mr. Smilie, DOA

00:44:51 Sen. Balyeat to Ms. Minnehan, MPERA

00:46:38 Sen. Cocchiarella to Rep. Olson

00:47:37 Sen. Squires

Closing by Sponsor:

00:48:03 Rep. Olson

EXHIBIT(sts62a02)

HEARING ON HB 765

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:50:30 **REP. ALAN OLSON (R), HD 45**, opened the hearing on **HB 765**, Revise retirement laws.

Proponents' Testimony: None.

Opponents' Testimony:

00:53:03 Melanie Symons, Legal Counsel, Montana Public Employees Retirement Administration (MPERA)

EXHIBIT(sts62a03)

00:56:54 David Senn, Executive Director, Teachers Retirement System (TRS)

Informational Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:57:53 Sen. Shockley to Rep. Olson rereferred to Ms. Symons, MPERA

00:59:22 Sen. Larry Jent to Ms. Symons, MPERA

EXHIBIT(sts62a04)

Closing by Sponsor:

01:00:27 Rep. Olson

HEARING ON HB 97

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:02:24 **REP. DEBBY BARRETT (R), HD 72**, opened the hearing on **HB 97**, Revise procedure for review of administrative rules.

Proponents' Testimony: None.

Opponents' Testimony:

01:04:27 Dal Smilie, Chief Legal Counsel, Montana Department of Administration (DOA)

01:10:31 Mark Cadwallader, Staff Attorney, Montana Department of Labor and Industry (DOLI)

01:15:09 Russ Cater, Chief Legal Counsel, Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)

01:22:00 Hal Harper, Office of the Honorable Governor Brian Schweitzer (Governor's Office)

Informational Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:24:31 Sen. Jent to Mr. Harper, Governor's Office

01:25:30 Sen. Squires to Rep. Barrett

01:31:03 Sen. Laible to Mr. Harper, Governor's Office

01:33:44 Sen. Cocchiarella to Rep. Barrett

Closing by Sponsor:

01:36:11 Rep. Barrett

HEARING ON HB 679

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:39:44 REP. SCOTT SALES (R), HD 68, opened the hearing on HB 679, Revise leave law for newly hired public employees.

EXHIBIT(sts62a05)

Proponents' Testimony: None.

Opponents' Testimony:

01:44:52 Janet Kelly, Director, Montana Department of Administration (DOA)

EXHIBIT(sts62a06)

01:49:39 Clinton Nyman, Executive Director, Montana Public Employees Association (MPEA)

EXHIBIT(sts62a07)

01:51:28 Eric Feaver, MEA-MFT

Informational Testimony:

01:53:39 Sheryl Wood, Associate Director, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

01:54:07 Jerry Keck, Montana Department of Labor and Industry (DOLI)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:56:59 Sen. Balyeat to Director Kelly, DOA, rereferred to Randy Morris, DOA

02:01:46 Sen. Cocchiarella to Rep. Sales

02:03:50 Sen. Balyeat to Mr. Nyman, MPEA

Closing by Sponsor:

02:06:48 Rep. Sales

HEARING ON HB 372

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

02:12:05 REP. PAT INGRAHAM (R), HD 13, opened the hearing on HB 372, Revise county treasurer salary.

Proponents' Testimony:

02:15:40 Ronda Wiggers, County Treasurers Association (CTA)

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Informational Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

02:19:20 Sen. Joe Tropila to Ms. Wiggers, CTA

02:20:47 Sen. Balyeat to Ms. Wiggers, CTA

Closing by Sponsor:

02:24:20 Rep. Ingraham

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 5:40 P.M.

SEN. CAROLYN SQUIRES, Chairman

LOIS O'CONNOR, Secretary

CS/lo

Additional Exhibits:

EXHIBIT ([sts62aad.pdf](#))